

Project Name:

Replacing a 99-year-old bridge in Beaverhead County, MT

Recipient Name:

Beaverhead County, MT

Address:

2 South Pacific Street, Dillon, MT 59725

Amount Requested:

\$1,032,788

Project Explanation:

The funding would replace a failing 99-year-old bridge that is on an important emergency services, school bus, and community transportation route. At more than 5,570 square miles, Beaverhead County is larger than the state of Connecticut and responsible for 1,300 miles of county roads, and 132 bridges. Fifty-nine percent of the land in the county is Federally owned, therefore the county is only able to secure property tax income on 41% of the county. The structural integrity of the bridge is in jeopardy, and renovating this bridge is the top priority of the County, however due to budget constraints they do not have the funds necessary to cover the project on their own. The State of Montana is also prioritizing this project as their top ranked commitment for Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) funding.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2601

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Beaverhead County Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Beaverhead County Bridge Rehabilitation Project in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Beaverhead County, located at 2 S Pacific #4, Dillon, MT 59725.

The funding would be used to replace a failing 99-year-old bridge. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the bridge is located on an important emergency service, school bus, and commodity transportation route. At more than 5,570 square miles, Beaverhead County is larger than the state of Connecticut and responsible for 1,300 miles of county roads, and 132 bridges. Fifty-nine percent of the land in the county is Federally owned, therefore the county is only able to secure property tax income on 41% of the county. The structural integrity of the bridge is in jeopardy, and renovating this bridge is the top priority of the County, however due to budget constraints they do not have the funds necessary to cover the project on their own. The State of Montana is also prioritizing this project as their top ranked commitment for MCEP funding.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Ryan K. Zinke

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress